

**Number of South Carolina Certificates of Religious Exemption
Presented to Public and Private School for Students Enrolled for Last Five School Years**

South Carolina Code Section 44-29-180 (A) requires schools to maintain records of vaccinations or immunizations. Annually, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) requires public and private schools to complete the School Summary of Student Immunization Status to obtain the number of students enrolled in South Carolina schools that are adequately protected against certain vaccine-preventable diseases (DHEC Regulation 61-8). Principals/school administrators submit this report, which includes the number of students admitted to school with exemptions, within forty-five (45) calendar days after the beginning of each school year. This process also ensures that schools identify students who are not adequately protected, and can either refer them to a health care provider for vaccination or have an available list in the case of a disease outbreak. In the case of an outbreak, students who are not vaccinated against the disease will be recommended to be excluded from school until the outbreak has been declared over. The data below represents the number of students enrolled with South Carolina Certificates of Religious Exemption for the last five (5) school years.

County	2016-2017			2017-2018			2018-2019			2019-2020			2020-2021		
	Enrolled	#	%	Enrolled	#	%	Enrolled	#	%	Enrolled	#	%	Enrolled	#	%
Abbeville	3,323	33	0.99%	3,281	59	1.80%	3,266	71	2.17%	3,213	67	2.09%	3,179	87	2.74%
Aiken	26,163	158	0.60%	25,955	165	0.64%	25,624	170	0.66%	25,622	192	0.75%	25,177	188	0.75%
Allendale	1,156	1	0.09%	1,110	1	0.09%	1,125	2	0.18%	1,036	5	0.48%	913	1	0.11%
Anderson	32,244	297	0.92%	32,301	376	1.16%	32,386	431	1.33%	32,428	491	1.51%	31,846	518	1.63%
Bamberg	2,200	4	0.18%	2,180	7	0.32%	2,100	9	0.43%	2,074	4	0.19%	2,024	7	0.35%
Barnwell	3,871	17	0.44%	3,883	15	0.39%	3,773	15	0.40%	3,743	17	0.45%	3,605	22	0.61%
Beaufort	24,321	269	1.11%	24,482	278	1.14%	24,744	335	1.35%	24,828	386	1.55%	24,327	384	1.58%
Berkeley	33,830	269	0.80%	35,224	321	0.91%	37,236	419	1.13%	38,391	500	1.30%	38,333	555	1.45%
Calhoun	1,981	17	0.86%	1,984	19	0.96%	1,951	23	1.18%	1,972	24	1.22%	1,913	12	0.63%
Charleston	53,749	629	1.17%	55,511	722	1.30%	54,645	912	1.67%	55,881	1,053	1.88%	54,945	1,013	1.84%
Cherokee	8,683	43	0.50%	8,573	54	0.63%	8,497	76	0.89%	8,612	94	1.09%	7,775	68	0.87%
Chester	5,199	12	0.23%	5,252	16	0.30%	5,118	25	0.49%	5,061	32	0.63%	4,859	36	0.74%
Chesterfield	7,358	5	0.07%	7,391	22	0.30%	7,018	22	0.31%	7,105	29	0.41%	6,948	30	0.43%
Clarendon	5,985	9	0.15%	5,820	5	0.09%	6,017	8	0.13%	5,876	12	0.20%	5,540	12	0.22%
Colleton	6,016	10	0.17%	5,921	15	0.25%	5,789	30	0.52%	5,697	39	0.68%	5,182	47	0.91%
Darlington	10,999	40	0.36%	10,981	44	0.40%	10,815	51	0.47%	10,669	65	0.61%	10,438	62	0.59%
Dillon	6,001	17	0.28%	5,963	20	0.34%	5,997	28	0.47%	5,798	29	0.50%	5,612	26	0.46%
Dorchester	28,067	223	0.79%	29,138	293	1.01%	29,216	430	1.47%	29,220	499	1.71%	27,773	433	1.56%
Edgefield	3,560	17	0.48%	3,460	16	0.46%	3,506	13	0.37%	3,486	18	0.52%	3,414	21	0.62%
Fairfield	2,944	5	0.17%	2,970	6	0.20%	2,954	14	0.47%	2,682	17	0.63%	2,629	16	0.61%
Florence	24,360	96	0.39%	24,490	122	0.50%	23,856	136	0.57%	23,835	148	0.62%	22,719	150	0.66%
Georgetown	9,528	57	0.60%	9,484	71	0.75%	9,420	92	0.98%	9,305	103	1.11%	8,569	83	0.97%
Greenville	86,244	1,678	1.95%	87,200	1,946	2.23%	87,923	2,178	2.48%	90,491	2,571	2.84%	90,686	2,485	2.74%
Greenwood	11,839	74	0.63%	11,882	81	0.68%	11,737	113	0.96%	11,772	123	1.04%	11,590	99	0.85%
Hampton	3,152	8	0.25%	3,114	4	0.13%	2,775	1	0.04%	2,910	9	0.31%	2,613	4	0.15%
Horry	44,293	455	1.03%	45,318	387	0.85%	45,948	536	1.17%	46,048	733	1.59%	46,002	776	1.69%
Jasper	3,835	14	0.37%	4,081	5	0.12%	4,030	22	0.55%	4,209	18	0.43%	3,919	18	0.46%
Kershaw	10,961	52	0.47%	10,966	51	0.47%	11,005	85	0.77%	11,272	91	0.81%	10,903	95	0.87%
Lancaster	13,008	93	0.71%	12,892	113	0.88%	13,463	149	1.11%	14,220	179	1.26%	14,093	178	1.26%
Laurens	8,873	56	0.63%	8,753	82	0.94%	8,739	93	1.06%	8,544	86	1.01%	8,298	77	0.93%
Lee	2,417	5	0.21%	2,380	5	0.21%	2,238	4	0.18%	2,121	6	0.28%	1,974	4	0.20%
Lexington	58,629	569	0.97%	59,097	630	1.07%	58,482	762	1.30%	59,423	810	1.36%	57,800	803	1.39%
Marion	5,042	8	0.16%	4,859	9	0.19%	4,668	10	0.21%	4,626	11	0.24%	4,493	9	0.20%
Marlboro	4,251	3	0.07%	4,196	2	0.05%	4,098	9	0.22%	3,999	7	0.18%	3,895	8	0.21%
McCormick	785	0	0.00%	779	0	0.00%	698	0	0.00%	635	1	0.16%	690	1	0.14%
Newberry	6,012	38	0.63%	6,101	41	0.67%	6,017	42	0.70%	5,949	43	0.72%	5,801	40	0.69%
Oconee	10,530	117	1.11%	10,504	120	1.14%	10,536	179	1.70%	10,467	184	1.76%	10,118	182	1.80%
Orangeburg	13,305	30	0.23%	13,574	35	0.26%	13,583	29	0.21%	13,301	31	0.23%	12,728	35	0.27%
Pickens	16,411	176	1.07%	16,224	199	1.23%	16,129	250	1.55%	15,768	279	1.77%	15,687	291	1.86%
Richland	63,000	602	0.96%	63,700	764	1.20%	60,851	781	1.28%	61,306	857	1.40%	60,930	857	1.41%
Saluda	2,357	12	0.51%	2,434	14	0.58%	2,489	19	0.76%	2,434	17	0.70%	2,475	25	1.01%
Spartanburg	50,053	1,126	2.25%	50,630	1,389	2.74%	50,683	1,608	3.17%	51,922	1,782	3.43%	51,182	1,735	3.39%
Sumter	18,115	33	0.18%	17,745	50	0.28%	17,532	63	0.36%	17,422	70	0.40%	16,747	64	0.38%
Union	4,048	11	0.27%	4,073	10	0.25%	4,060	14	0.34%	4,686	22	0.47%	3,807	15	0.39%
Williamsburg	4,470	6	0.13%	4,313	6	0.14%	3,912	8	0.20%	3,743	7	0.19%	3,540	7	0.20%
York	47,138	685	1.45%	48,389	837	1.73%	49,735	887	1.78%	50,631	1,014	2.00%	49,763	998	2.01%
Statewide	789,405	8,074	1.02%	798,558	9,427	1.18%	796,384	11,154	1.40%	804,433	12,775	1.59%	787,454	12,577	1.60%

References: School Summary of Student Immunization Status for the school years noted above.

DHEC Immunization Division, 12/10/2020